

EPA Brownfields Supplemental Assistance

St. Louis County, MO

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

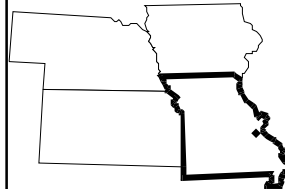
EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA awarded St. Louis County, Missouri, supplemental assistance for its Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot. Inner suburbs and municipalities in St. Louis County have experienced an economic decline as both residents and businesses have moved to outlying suburbs. For example, 50 years ago, Wellston, a St. Louis County municipality, counted 40,000 residents and its industry supported 10,000 jobs. Today, Wellston's industry is struggling and its population has declined more than 60 percent. Half of the residents live below the poverty line, and 93 percent are minorities.

To help revitalize aging "inner ring" suburbs such as Wellston, St. Louis County launched a brownfields initiative in 1997, partially funded through the initial EPA Pilot. The St. Louis County brownfields initiative has worked to spur cleanup and redevelopment at several abandoned and/or contaminated sites in Wellston and other inner ring communities. The Pilot will use the supplemental assistance to expand beyond the initial targeted project—the Wellston Technology Park (WTP)—to two other Wellston brownfields and two potential greenspace projects in the Lemay area of St. Louis County.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



*St. Louis County,
Missouri*

Date of Announcement:
March 2000

Amount: \$100,000

Profile: The Pilot will target four brownfields in the towns of Wellston and Lemay for residential, commercial, and recreational reuse.

Contacts:

Land Clearance for
Redevelopment Authority
St. Louis County
(314) 615-7663

Regional Brownfields Team
U.S. EPA - Region 7
(913) 551-7786

Visit the EPA Region 7 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region07/specinit/brown/brownfields.htm>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

OBJECTIVES AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

St. Louis County, in conjunction with the St. Louis Brownfields Initiative, seeks to ensure that the entire community benefits from brownfields revitalization. In Wellston, the Pilot will support these efforts at a project adjacent to the WTP that will be redeveloped into a 300-unit residential area and another brownfield that will become a light industrial park. In Lemay, the supplemental assistance will facilitate greenspace creation as part of the Rivers South Restoration project, located within the federally designated Empowerment Zone. Revitalization of brownfields within these communities hopefully will demonstrate the feasibility and potential for business expansion in older St. Louis County communities.

To accomplish these objectives, the Pilot plans to:

- Conduct environmental assessments at four targeted brownfields in the towns of Wellston and Lemay;
- Prepare preliminary cleanup plans for the targeted brownfields; and
- Develop a community outreach program to ensure residents understand the potential risks and benefits of brownfields reuse.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.